



For Immediate Release

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North Ed Board Selects Next Superintendent

Tara Mager to lead 5-county region's intermediate school district

TRAVERSE CITY, Mich. – The Northwest Education Services (North Ed) Board of Education unanimously selected Dr. Tara Mager to be the intermediate school district's next superintendent.

The decision was made Wednesday night during a special board meeting and authorizes board President Joe Fisher to enter into contract negotiations on behalf of the board to secure Mager's employment, with a tentative start date of July 1.

"This organization has developed an excellent reputation for providing high-quality educational support for students, teachers and school districts, and I am grateful to have an opportunity to build upon that incredible legacy," Mager said. "I want to thank the Board of Education for placing their trust in me, and I look forward to building deep relationships with staff and strong partnerships throughout the community as we continue to foster student growth and success."

Mager was selected among a pool of 22 applicants, and was one of two candidates offered a second-round interview. Mager and the other finalist [Stephanie O'Dea](#) toured North Ed programs, attended community open houses and participated in second-round interviews with the board on Tuesday and Wednesday, respectively.

"Dr. Mager is a competent leader, and she has the skills and knowledge needed to lead North Ed's team of dedicated professionals," President Fisher said. "We are exceptionally pleased with the outcome of our search process, and thank the students, parents, staff and community members who provided input along the way. We are confident that Dr. Mager will prioritize the interests of our region's students, schools and communities."

[Mager](#) is currently superintendent at Clare-Gladwin Regional Education Service District. She has 20 years of experience working in public education, including as a superintendent, principal and guidance counselor at a local school district. She has successfully defended her doctoral dissertation and will officially receive her Ph.D. from Eastern Michigan University in April. She also holds degrees from Michigan State and Central Michigan universities.

Current North Ed Superintendent Dr. Nick Ceglarek is retiring after being hired for the role in 2017. Prior to starting at North Ed, Ceglarek served as superintendent at Hudsonville Public Schools, Fruitport Community Schools and Baldwin Community Schools. He began his career in education as a math teacher at Rockford Public Schools.

Northwest Education Services supports 20,000 students and more than 30 school districts across the five counties of Antrim, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska and Leelanau. As the intermediate school district, it provides early childhood services, special education and vocational education programming for students, professional development for educators and various support services for districts.

[Michigan Leadership Institute](#) supported North Ed with its search.

More information related to North Ed's superintendent search can be found [online](#).

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